



Rock Talk

The Official Newsletter of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Where And How To Easily Find Lapis Lazuli

Lapis lazuli is a beautiful deep blue gemstone prized for thousands of years. Its history is as rich as its color. Its beautiful color and golden pyrite flecks that mirror a starry night have made it a favorite among artists, jewelers, and even royalty.

With its unique mix of minerals, this metamorphic rock has been used to make jewelry, sculptures, and even ultramarine, a bright blue color used in many Renaissance paintings.

Lapis lazuli comes from the Latin word "lapis," which means "stone," and the Arabic word "azula," which means "blue." It has been a symbol of beauty and prestige in many different cultures. In ancient Egypt, it was a sign of royalty and godhood. Pharaohs and their tombs were decorated with it. The bright color of lapis lazuli was also used to make ultramarine, the first blue pigment ever used. It was used to paint frescoes in Renaissance Europe.



This Month's Roundup of Stories

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It's made up of several different minerals, mostly lazurite, but also calcite, sodalite, and pyrite. Lapis lazuli has been mined for more than 6,000 years. It has been used for jewelry, carvings, and the color ultramarine.

The Sar-e Sang mines in Afghanistan are its most important and historically significant source, but they can also be found in Chile, Russia, and parts of the United States, mostly in California.

Lapis lazuli is an ancient and highly valued gemstone that comes in many forms that both gem collectors and artists find fascinating. Each type of lapis has its beauty and meaning. Some are very dark blue with golden pyrite spots, while others are lighter blue with white calcite spots. Understanding these differences helps you not only appreciate the stone more, but also find it and use it in different kinds of art.

Read the entire article at [RockChasing.com](https://www.rockchasing.com)



Secretary's Report

Minutes and More from Club Secretary - Melodye Steverson

*Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Date 9-13-23*

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Janice Wocjik at 7:10 pm. We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

There was 1 new members to recognize: Rob Koment. There were 3 guests in attendance: Rowan, Heidi and Sam.

Michael Steverson made a motion to accept the minutes of our August meeting as printed in the newsletter, Ralph Barber seconded. Passed by all members.

Treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's report. Rachel Blank made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Seconded by Carla Howell. Approved by all.

Vice President Wocjik began with announcements: The Weeki Wachee Anglers will be having a Fish Fry on November 4th at the clubhouse. The cost will be \$10 per person, plus a side dish to offset the cost for their club.

Annual Gem Show: 74 vendor tables have been sold. Vendors on the first waiting list have been sent applications. The second waiting list will be sent applications very soon.

We need members to volunteer to help run the show. You may volunteer for a few hours at a time if that's all you can do. Time is running short and we need everyone to help!

There will be 2 Silversmithing classes held in November. A beginner class and an Intermediate class. At this time the classes are full, but more classes are being planned for the future.

Melodye Steverson announced that after 12 weeks, her Cabochon classes were over for now as she prepares for her show season. She stated that she would hold more rock cutting classes when possible.

Pam Gonzales announced that the Board had given her permission to purchase some tools for her silversmithing class. She showed everyone what she had acquired and what they are to be used for.

Leslie Newberry made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Michael Steverson seconded, passed by all. Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by
Secretary Melodye Steverson.*

*Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of
Directors
Meeting Minutes
Date 9-20-23*

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Janice Wocjik, Melodye Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Ralph Barber, Roger Wheeler, Michael Steverson and Leslie Newberry. Board meeting started at 6:35 pm and was held via the Internet on Zoom.

President Birx began by announcing that Facebook page moderator Roberta Oldread has requested access to club money to be spent on Facebook Boosts to promote our upcoming Gem Show. VP Janice Wocjik made a motion to provide up to \$200 for Facebook Boosts for promotions, seconded by Leslie Newberry, approved by all.

Treasurer Janet Wheeler agreed to provide enough change for the weekend cash sales. She will also procure four \$50 gift cards to be awarded to the non-member vendors through daily drawings. President Birx will be responsible for bringing machines and signs to the venue.

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**Clubhouse Address:
3357 Susan Dr.
Spring Hill, FL 34606**

Chrysanthemum Stone

Chrysanthemum stone is a unique and captivating mineral with a rich history, valued for its striking appearance and intricate patterns.

This stone is not a true mineral in the geological sense, but rather a rock composed of several different minerals, primarily calcite and dolomite, with the occasional presence of andalusite, celestite, or feldspar. It gets its name from the distinctive floral patterns that often resemble chrysanthemum flowers, making it a sought-after gemstone and collector's item.

Chrysanthemum stone is predominantly gray or black, and its most striking feature is the intricate white or grayish-white floral patterns that appear as if they were naturally painted onto the surface of the stone. These patterns can vary widely in size and complexity, with some stones featuring simple, petal-like shapes and others displaying highly detailed, layered designs resembling actual chrysanthemum flowers. The patterns are created through a combination of mineral inclusions and crystalline structures that have formed within the rock over millions of years.

The stone's name, "Chrysanthemum," is derived from the Greek words "chrysos," meaning gold, and "antheon," meaning flower. This name is fitting as the flower-like patterns often shimmer with golden hues when light strikes them at the right angle.

Chrysanthemum stones are primarily found in specific locations in China, Japan, Canada, and the United States, with the Chinese variety being the most well-known. They are often used for ornamental purposes, including carving into intricate sculptures and cabochons for jewelry. The unique patterns and metaphysical properties attributed to Chrysanthemum stone also make it a favorite among collectors and enthusiasts of both minerals and gemstones.

In addition to its aesthetic appeal, Chrysanthemum stone has also been associated with various metaphysical properties and healing properties by some individuals and cultures. It is believed to promote balance, harmony, and transformation, making it a popular choice for those interested in crystal healing and spiritual practices.

Chrysanthemum stone is a visually striking and intriguing rock known for its flower-like patterns and associations with balance and transformation. It is a unique geological formation that has captured the fascination of collectors, artisans, and individuals interested in the metaphysical properties of gemstones.

Read the entire article at [GeologyScience.com](https://www.geology-science.com)





Withlacoochee Rockhounds Presents

The Third One

Cabelot

TURNING ROCKS INTO GEMSTONES AGAIN

It's baaaaack... for a record 3rd time!

At our October 11th Meeting we will revisit the world of lapidary. Members will design a CAB with templates, cut a CAB with a trim saw, and grind a CAB with our Pixie Cabbing machines.

Experienced lapidary members will have lapidary equipment on display throughout the clubhouse to show a variety of techniques to make your simple rock come to life as a gemstone!



Bicolor Sapphires

Bicolor sapphires are a unique and captivating variety of sapphire gemstones known for their striking and distinct color combinations. Unlike traditional sapphires, which typically exhibit a single, uniform color, bicolor sapphires showcase two or more distinct colors within a single gemstone.

These gemstones are highly valued for their rare and mesmerizing beauty, making them a popular choice among jewelry enthusiasts and collectors.

The rarity and desirability of specific bicolor combinations can vary depending on several factors, including the intensity, clarity, and transition of colors within the gemstone. Generally, bicolor sapphires with well-defined, vibrant color zones and smooth transitions are more desirable and valuable.

Rarity also plays a role, as some color combinations are naturally less common than others.

Ultimately, personal taste and fashion trends can influence which bicolor sapphire combinations are considered the most desirable at any given time. Collectors and jewelry enthusiasts often appreciate the uniqueness and individuality of these gemstones, making bicolor sapphires a sought-after choice for distinctive jewelry pieces.

Bicolor sapphires can exhibit a wide range of color combinations, and the appeal of specific pairings can be influenced by individual preferences and trends in the jewelry industry.

Bicolor sapphires can be found in various sapphire-producing regions around the world. These gemstones are typically discovered alongside other sapphire varieties, and their specific color combinations are influenced by the geological conditions and trace elements present in each location.

It's important to note that bicolor sapphires can vary in quality and color combinations within each source. Factors such as the specific geological conditions, trace elements present, and the cutting and treatment processes can all impact the appearance and desirability of these gemstones.

Gemologists and jewelers often assess bicolor sapphires for their unique beauty and individuality, which can make them highly prized in the world of gemstones and jewelry.

Read the entire article at [GeologyScience.com](https://www.geology-science.com)



Where And How To Easily Find Labradorite

Labradorite is a beautiful and mesmerizing feldspar mineral prized for how its colors play with each other. It often has bright shades of green, blue, gold, pink, or purple.

If the way labradorite shines has caught your eye and you want to find some for yourself, this article is just what you need.

Labradorite is a beautiful feldspar mineral known for the way its colors change, called labradorescence. This shimmering effect is caused by how light bends between the thin layers inside the mineral.

This happens because of how the mineral formed. Labradorite forms in igneous rocks called anorthosites. It comes from basaltic magma.

In the U.S., the Adirondack Mountains in New York are a notable source of labradorite, with the mineral embedded within the region's anorthosite complexes.

This alluring stone's mystical appearance captures the essence of the geological wonders hidden beneath the American landscapes.

Labradorite is a gem that is known for its mesmerizing play of colors. It comes in a few different types.



Each style has its colors and history, from the bright Spectrolite to the calm Rainbow Moonstone.

Blue Labradorite is prized for its deep azure iridescence, which stands in contrast to the wider range of colors that are usually seen in other types. This bright color gives a dreamy, heavenly vibe like a starry night sky.

Golden Labradorite stands out with its bright, gold-yellow labradorescence, which shines like the sun. Labradorite usually has a blue-green shimmer, but this type makes you feel warm and bright, like sunlight shining through leaves.

Despite its name, Rainbow Moonstone is a type of labradorite known for its ethereal adularescence, which has a blue or multicolored sheen. Rainbow moonstone doesn't have the usual blue-green shimmer of labradorite.

Spectrolite is a type of labradorite that is considered to be the best. It's known for its full range of bright colors, which include deep blues, purples, and greens.

Labradorite usually has a blue-green play of color, but Spectrolite has a wider and more intense range of colors, which makes it more interesting.

Read the entire article at [RockChasing.com](https://www.rockchasing.com)



Field Trips

"Note: The Withlacoochee Rockhounds Club does not sponsor field trips other than trips that are sanctioned by the SFMS (The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies).

Our club insurance is through SFMS and does not cover excursions not listed on their website as safe."

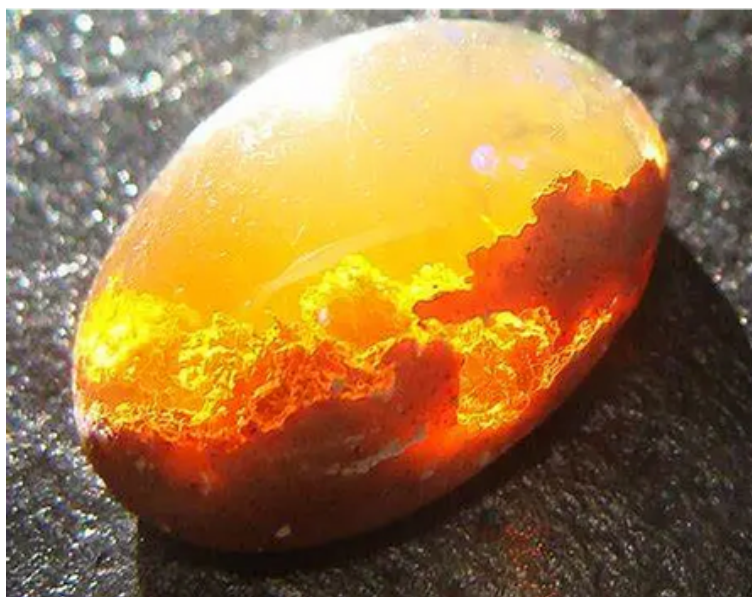
Fire Opal

Fire opal is a captivating and unique gemstone known for its vibrant play of colors and fiery hues. Unlike traditional opals, which typically display a milky, iridescent appearance, fire opals are distinguished by their transparency and the brilliant flashes of red, orange, and yellow colors they exhibit. These gemstones derive their name from the intense and warm colors reminiscent of flames.

Fire opals belong to the mineral species known as “opal,” and they are part of the subcategory called “precious opals.” What sets fire opals apart from other opals is their base color, which ranges from yellow to orange to red, with occasional tinges of brown. This base color is often transparent or translucent, allowing light to pass through and enhance the gem’s fiery play of colors.

These mesmerizing gemstones are typically sourced from various regions around the world, with significant deposits found in Mexico, particularly in the states of Querétaro, Jalisco, and Guerrero. Fire opals are prized for their unique beauty and are used in a variety of jewelry pieces, including rings, pendants, earrings, and more.

In addition to their aesthetic appeal, fire opals have been associated with various metaphysical properties and beliefs in different cultures. Some people believe that fire opals can bring energy, creativity, and passion to their wearers, while others view them as symbols of love and protection. Read the entire article at [GeologyScience.com](https://www.geology.com)



continued from page 2

Past President Ralph Barber is in charge of setting up tables at the site. He will inquire about the balance our club owes the venue and report to the Treasurer.

VP Wocjik will send the vendor application to Webmaster Michael Steverson to put on the web page.

Secretary Steverson was instructed to acquire another large sign as well as 20 small "in ground" signs from Sir Speedy. Michael Steverson made the motion to allow her to spend up to \$300 for the signs, seconded by Leslie Newberry, passed.

VP Wocjik stated that she will provide coffee, OJ and doughnuts for the vendors and volunteers at the Gem Show.

She intends to brew the coffee at the site. She also said that she is in touch with Bay News 9 to promote our show. There are 76 tables sold at this date.

President Birx reported that she had turned all the paperwork the CPA had asked for over to AMY who works for the CPA. She said it's all in Amy's hands now.

VP Wocjik announced the program for October will be Cabelot 3, and Leslie Newberry will be doing a program on crystals in November.

The meeting ended at 7:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson

Withlacoochee Rockhounds



Our monthly club meeting is held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club, 3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in Rock Talk is \$10.00 per month. Contact Michael Steverson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and the club website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

Advertisers Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website. The club can use the monthly income. Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members

Contact club treasure Janet Wheeler: ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com or send to: Withlacoochee Rockhounds, PO Box 9634, Spring Hill, FL 34811-9634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

We are a non-profit organization whose pupose is to foster interest and promote knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary arts, and earth sciences, through regular meetings, informative programs, workshops, and field trips. PLUS, our annual gem, mineral and jewelry show.

Membership is open to anyone sharing such interests.

Dues

Dues are \$35.00 annually for adults, and \$5.00 for children under 18 years of age.

Club Meeting Location and time

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center, 3357 Susan Dr in Spring Hill. The meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM

2023 Club Officers and Appointees

President	Judith Birx	352.587.1702	judithblrx@hotmail.com
Vice President	Janice Wojcik	813.677.6263	jfwojcik@verizon.net
Secretary	Melodye Steverson	352.683.9496	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Treasurer	Janet Wheeler	727.938.3644	ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
Rock Talk Editor	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Club Webmaster	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Mailing Reporter	Janet Wheeler	727.938.3644	ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
Gem Bag Coordinator	Gloria DuPont	352.848.5199	ddupont@tampabay.rr.com
Audio/Visual Coordinator	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Judith Birx (President)	Janice Wojcik (Vice President)	Melodye Steverson (Secretary)	Janet Wheeler (Treasurer)
Roberta Oldread	Leslie Newberry	Roger Wheeler	Michael Steverson
			Ralph Barber (Past President)



Bench Tips from Brad Smith

Brad Smith's *Bench Tips* are a monthly feature of Rock Talk

DRILLING A STONE

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and fails to cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about \$6.

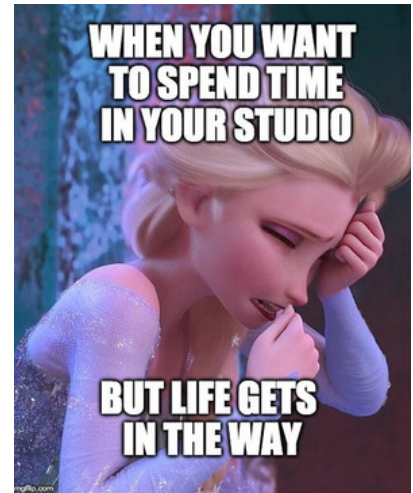
Chuck the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.

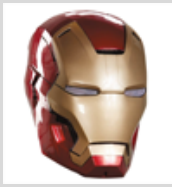


Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Rock Talk Funny Papers





From The Editor

Hello to all Withlacoochee Rockhounds

It is I, your friendly neighborhood editor again.

If you missed our August 2023 meeting, you missed Our Rock Liquidation Extravaganza . We cleared out a large inventory of rocks we had accumulated over the years. EVERYONE left with some rocks. To say it rocked, is an understatement! Our October meeting will be a return of a club favorite - Cabelot! This is the third time for Cabelot. Be sure to attend!

If you would like to place a business card ad in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me, and we'll get you added to the next available issue.

Additionally, if any of you have not received your newsletter or are not receiving my e-mail blasts (meetings, rock sales, etc.), *please* check your spam folder. If you are still are not receiving them, please contact me, and let's make sure I have your correct e-mail address. I have a few of you who unsubscribed from the mailings. I cannot add you back to the list. You have to subscribe to get back on the list. It's a permissions thing.

Our Board would like our members to come up with suggestions for programs to be presented at our monthly meetings. What would you like to see? What would you like to learn? What would you like to know? Is there something you'd like to teach or present? You can help our club expand its educational repertoire. We'd love to hear from you all.

Contact any Board member or bring your written suggestions to a meeting.

Rock On!!!

Club Phone Number - 352.587.2714

Warning to Withlacoochee Rockhound Members

During the last several months, illicit requests have been sent to members of various clubs in the US, including the Withlacoochee Rockhounds, asking members to purchase gift cards that would be used as donations to various organizations.

These are SCAMS.


Be advised that our club has never and will never ask members to buy gift cards or provide any form of monetary funds to anyone or any organization by phone call, email, or any other method of communication.

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Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in
Rock Talk is \$10.00 per month.

Contact Michael Stevenson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and
the club website. It will benefit both
your business and our club.

If your ad has a web address, or Etsy shop address, I have linked to it.

Advertisers Are Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website.
The monthly income from these ads is beneficial to the club.
Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members.
Contact club treasurer Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com or
send to:
Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form

2023

Annual Dues: Individual member, \$35.00. Under 18 years of age, \$5.00

Check if returning member

Check if current member
with change of information

Check if new member

Check if under 18

Please Print Clearly

Last name

First Name

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Phone Number (s)

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You may now fill in the fields on this form if you are viewing it on your computer or tablet.
Each field may be clicked on and then you may type in your information.
You will still need to print out the form, but your added information should show on the form.

Give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds" to club secretary Janet Wheeler at a club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to:

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

2022